Joining of major rivers

448. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated during Eleventh Five Year Plan for joining of major rivers in the country;

(b) the amount allocated for annual plans therefrom and the amount spent so far for the joining of major rivers in the country; and

(c) what progress has been made for joining major rivers of the country during 2006, 2007 and 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government has kept a provision of Rs. 182.80 crore during Eleventh Five Year Plan for the preparation of Prefeasibility / Feasibility / Detailed Project Reports of river links under Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) Programme including that for preparation of Prefeasibility / Feasibility Reports of Intra-State links by National Water Development Agency (NWDA).

(b) The details of fund allocations are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Final Estimates	Expenditure incurred
2007-08	26.00	22.00	22.00
2008-09	30.00	To be decided in Jan./ Feb, 2009	11.85 (upto September, 2008)

(c) The details of progress made during the year 2006, 2007 and 2008 are given below:

(i) The work for preparing Feasibility reports of following links was taken up:

- Under Peninsular Component
  - Bedti – Varada link
- Under Himalayan Component
  - Chunar – Sone barrage link,
  - Yamuna – Rajasthan link,
  - Farakka – Sunderbans link,
  - Ganga (Farakka) – Damodar – Subernarekha link,
  - Subernarekha - Mahanadi link,
  - Rajasthan – Sabarmati link,
  - Sone dam – Southern Tributaties of Ganga link,
  - Manas – Sankosh – Tista – Ganga link,

- Kosi – Gahagra link, Gandak – Ganga link,
- Jogighopa – Tista – Farakka link

(ii) The works for preparation of detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ken - Betwa link project was taken up in 2006 and is planned to be completed by December, 2008.

(iii) During 2008, the Government of Gujarat and Maharashtra have conveyed their concurrence to Union Government on Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for taking up the work of Preparation of Detailed Project Report of two links namely Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal.

Linking of rivers

†449. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'River Linking Plan' is not being properly implemented due to mutual disputes among several States;

(b) if so, the details of such disputes due to which project is being hampered;

(c) the number of links and the details of phases of projects at which the work is going on at present;

(d) whether any scheme is being formulated by the Centre in order to resolve the disputes among States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a), (b), (d) and (e) The implementation of Inter linking of rivers programmes in the country depends upon the consensus and Cooperation of the concerned States and agreement with the neighboring countries. The major apprehensions of the States on this programme are:

1. about disturbing the existing allocation as per awards for fresh agreements on NWDA proposals.
2. that the link proposals may have adverse effects on the existing irrigation and power requirements.
3. about the requirement of power to lift waters as proposed in link proposals.

The Government constituted a group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of other officers of CWC, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) and Secretaries of Irrigation / Water Resources Departments from the concerned States in June, 2002 to discuss with the States the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of Details Project Reports (DPR) by NWDA. Five links namely (i) Ken-Betwa, (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh - Chambal, (iii) Damanganga - Pinjal, (iv) Par - Tapi - Narmada and (v) Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) have been identified as priority links in this regard. The Group has help 9 meetings on these priority links.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.